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August 27th, 2012 ■ Summer Issue No. 5 ■ Volume 103

THE gateway

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

LISTER CHANGES



RYAN BROMSGROVE

SU health and safety understanding at odds with admin explanation

Scott Fenwick

NEWS STAFF ■ @SCOTTFFENWICK

Information from Dean of Students Frank Robinson contradicts public statements from the Students' Union regarding the health and safety concerns behind the Lister changes.

In an Aug. 14 meeting of Students' Council, Vice-President (Operations & Finance) Andy Cheema, Vice-President (Student Life) Saadiq Sumar and President Colten Yamagishi delivered a presentation on the Lister changes. Cheema stated in the presentation that the U of A gave the SU documents to substantiate their health and safety concerns in Lister, but that these documents did not justify what the SU believes is a breach of due process. In the same meeting, at the recommendation of the executive committee, an unbudgeted \$50,000 expenditure was approved *in camera*.

"There has not been any specific evidence given to back up (the university's) concerns, and to date I personally remain confused as to what the health and safety emergency is," Cheema said.

"One interesting point to note is that there

are only three floors occupied by residents in Lister over the summer, so I'm at a loss as to what the emergency has been."

"There has not been any specific evidence given to back up (the university's) concerns, and to date I personally remain confused as to what the health and safety emergency is."

ANDY CHEEMA

VICE-PRESIDENT (OPERATIONS & FINANCE), STUDENTS' UNION

Most of the executives' presentation was delivered *in-camera*, forcing non-council members out of the council chamber and binding remaining councillors to the SU's non-disclosure agreement. This also means that the later unbudgeted expense approval has been decided without a public explanation of where the money will be going.

PLEASE SEE LISTER • PAGE 3

THEATRE PREVIEW

StageLab shows off drama department's in-house works



JOSIAH HIEMSTRA

Paige Gorsak

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @PAIGEGORSAK

With the school year filled with student festivals, artistic demonstrations and annual showcases of BFA student productions, it's logical to imagine that summers in the University of Alberta's Department of Drama are fairly quiet.

But behind the scenes, the professors who dedicate their falls and winters to education and research have been hard at work. This year marks the second in a row the staff of the drama department have toiled to present StageLab, a multimedia theatre festival that showcases their creative genius.

Conceived by department chair Kathleen Weiss, the festival was born last summer with the object of offering the creative minds in the department an outlet for their ideas. For the researchers, professors and professionals involved, this opportunity meant that their work, often created privately, could be shared with one another and the public.

PLEASE SEE STAGELAB • PAGE 11

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colophon

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DAN MCKECHNIE

Plastiq brings back credit card

Third party re-introduces credit card at the University of Alberta to make tuition payments easier

Alex Migdal

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR ■ @ALEXEM

The credit card is making a comeback to the University of Alberta this fall thanks to a new tuition-payment vendor called Plastiq.

The third-party service will allow U of A students to pay their tuition using a credit card — a form of payment the university abolished in July 2008.

Since then, payment methods for students have included cheques, money orders, online banking and cash.

The move back to credit card payments is mainly a matter of convenience, according to Paul Natland, a U of A alum overseeing Plastiq's dealings with the university.

Natland said the service is especially helpful for out-of-town parents who want to pay their children's tuition, along with international students wanting to avoid the hassle of setting up a new bank account.

The service will also benefit students looking to build credit or obtain reward points on their card.

"It can also be a lifeline," Natland noted.

"There are students waiting for that last cheque to come in from their summer job. Or maybe you need to bridge a gap between receiving a student loan."

Ron Ritter, director of treasury and investments at the U of A, said several third-party

vendors have tried to offer the same service, but none have gained traction.

"We felt (Plastiq) was fairly sophisticated and well-organized. We wanted to move ahead with them given their approach to things," Ritter said.

"We're not formally endorsing them. We're just making sure, like any financial institution, that the data flows as best as possible."

The university wants to ensure that students' payments are reflected as quickly as possible on their account, Ritter said. Once a student submits a payment on Plastiq, the amount is transferred directly to the university, with Plastiq taking a small convenience fee.

When the U of A accepted credit card payments prior to July 2008, credit companies were charging such high commission fees that the university felt savings could be redirected to university operations, Ritter said.

In most instances, students should see their payment reflected on their BearTracks account within 24 hours.

Melissa Mooney graduated from the U of A in 2011, but is coming back in the fall to pursue an after-degree in education. She's willing to use the service, she said, but first wants to ensure that it's trustworthy and reliable.

"My tuition this year is going to be \$6,600.

So if I get one to two per cent cash back on that, that's anywhere between 60 and 120 dollars," Mooney said.

"It doesn't seem like a lot, but that's a textbook right there. I'm constantly having to pinch pennies."

But Alex Hladun, a third-year student in chemical engineering, said he doesn't understand why students want to pay tuition with credit cards in the first place, especially when taking interest rates into account.

"We felt (Plastiq) was fairly sophisticated and well-organized. We wanted to move ahead with them given their approach to things ... We're not formally endorsing them."

RON RITTER

DIRECTOR OF TREASURY AND INVESTMENTS, U OF A

"My credit limit — and probably most students — isn't even high enough to cover a semester's tuition in the first place," Haduan said in an email.

"I've been using online bill payments, which are just as easy."

Students can pay for their tuition through Plastiq starting immediately.



"The locomotives are black. The coal is black. The tracks are black. The night is black. So what am I going to do with color?"

- O. WINSTON LINK

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photo

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PHOTO MEETINGS FRIDAYS AT
4 PM IN 3-04 SUB.

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA

UAPS wants a clear firearm policy after SUB evacuation

Katelyn Hoffart

STAFF REPORTER • @KATELYNHOFFART

After a gun scare that took place in the Students' Union Building August 12, University of Alberta Protective Services is pushing to develop a clear guideline under the university's current firearms policy that outlines bringing fake weapons onto campus.

The incident involved a small group of students shooting a movie in the basement of the building with imitation paintball guns.

Although incapable of firing projectiles, UAPS director Bill Mowbray said the witness interpreted the props as assault weapons. This led to SUB being searched and evacuated by UAPS — immediately joined by Edmonton Police Services.

Prior to filming, the student group called UAPS to notify them that they would be shooting a scene with the fake firearms on Saturday. However, this took place at a different location, and no mention of filming on Sunday at SUB was given.

"Naturally, of course, we responded because we thought the other filming was over and done with the day before," said Mowbray. "It's just a miscommunication issue."

UAPS Firearms Sergeant Tony Larson said there was no criminal intent in this circumstance, but any real weapons brought on campus would be a serious offence.

"The University of Alberta prohibits anyone from bringing any firearm or weapon onto this campus. The policy that we have currently clearly indicates that," he said.

Larson said there were some exceptions to this, noting that the university is a research intensive institution that would allow firearms on campus in controlled environments for academic purposes.



SUPPLIED

The policy states that "Privately owned firearms are not allowed (whether being transported or used) on University owned, leased, rented or controlled properties without the approval of Campus Security Services and the appropriate Dean or Unit Director."

However it does not cover anything regarding imitation firearms such as in the case of SUB.

"Right now we're relying on people using common sense and giving us a call," said Mowbray.

"I don't think that's a wise option for the future. I think we really need to develop a policy and a procedure if you're going to be using imitation firearms on campus — things that might startle or alarm other people," he said.

Larson also noted many calls are

made to police within the provincial capital district about suspicious firearm sightings with the majority turning out to be false alarms, but still encourages anyone to call the police with concerns.

Mowbray doesn't want to see the prohibition of fake or real weapons on campus for the use of legitimate research or projects, but he does want to see the policy extended to ensure the safety of everyone on campus.

"Our goal here in the future is not to prevent these things from happening, it's actually to assist them and allowing them to continue without this type of interruption," he said.

The entire campus firearm policy can be viewed on the university's policies and procedures website.

Admin reports contradict SU statements

LISTER • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The proposal called for \$50,000 to be approved, later split between \$10,000 for student association staff training fees and \$40,000 for 'professional fees.' Disclosure of additional proposal details, as well as council debate surrounding it, are being kept confidential.

Yamagishi, who moved the \$50,000 spending be approved, declined to say when details will be made public.

"Do I think that that information will go out to the public in the future? Maybe, but I have no idea at this point of time," he said.

Yamagishi also declined to reveal which groups are receiving the \$10,000 in student association staff training fees.

During the public portion of the executive presentation, Cheema said the SU asked the university for evidence of the emergency which required immediate changes to Lister as well as how proposed changes would resolve such an emergency.

"We've been buried with a number of documents but we don't believe that anything in these documents justifies or substantiates (the university's) position," he said.

Cheema did not publicly tell Council the documents received were formal incident reports filed by permanent U of A Residence Services staff and issues the administration had discovered via social media.

According to Dean of Students

Frank Robinson, the U of A based its July 23 decision to change Lister Residence on a review of these reports. The review was conducted to investigate Residence Services' claim that Lister Centre floor coordinators, who enforce discipline as joint employees of the LHSA and administration, are in a conflict of interest.

"An incident could be vomit in a lounge, an incident can be broken glass in a lounge, an incident could be urine in a hallway," Robinson said.

"You only need so many reports of broken glass and so many reports of vomit and urine on walls before you realize you have a problem."

Yamagishi said much of the incident reports' content is outdated and irrelevant.

"A lot of it is really old information. A lot of the incidents they're talking about are from 10 to 15 years ago. And a lot of this stuff, we've worked to address it. And there's certain events they highlight that don't even exist anymore."

However, Robinson said most of the reports are from the past two years at the U of A.

"The incident reports that are formal from Residence Services are only in the last year. The social media stuff is back earlier," he said.

"Some (reports) go back to 2005, but there were a significant number from 2010-2012. There were in excess of 60 alcohol or damage or other serious misconduct incident

reports in the past academic year of 2011-2012."

Robinson said that the incident report contents convinced him that change was needed by September, adding that the administration doesn't characterize Lister's situation as an "emergency," but rather as "urgent."

"Urgent is when we have to make a change now, and that meant we could change in the summer, not in 2013, but in 2012. That's what I mean by urgent. We do not want another year like we have had with these incidents happening again. It's urgent that we fix that."

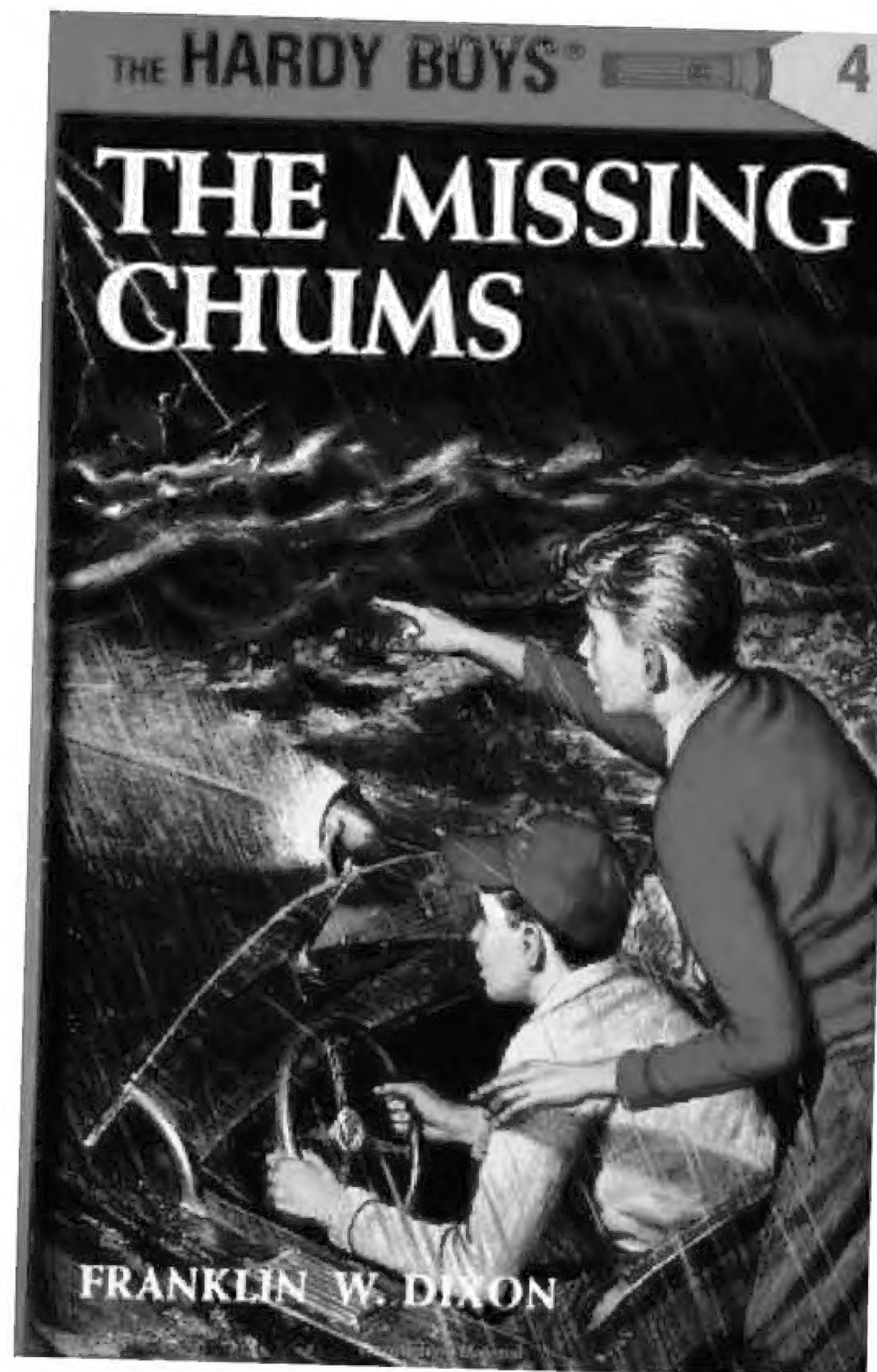
The word "emergency" is not present in any of the university's online postings about the Lister changes.

"The staffing and rule changes are being implemented immediately to address health and safety concerns that became apparent as plans developed during the summer for the first-year transition," the original announcement reads.

However, Yamagishi argued the severity of Lister's situation has been overblown.

"(The reports) show incident rates have gone down in the past four years," Yamagishi said, adding that the over-consumption of alcohol in Lister isn't an emergency. "There wasn't anything extremely alarming that I thought I wouldn't have expected to see."

With files from Ryan Broms-grove.



Dearest Gateway newsie hopeful, where you have been all our lives? We know you so desperately long to write news, so why not make that trek to the third floor of SUB and fill that hole in our hearts? As our friends the Hardy Boys say, we're missing you chum.

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Your gateway to misconstruing book titles for personal gain

NEWS MEETINGS
FRIDAYS AT 3 PM
IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/NEWS



online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/NEWS

Zesty cheese Doritos have mysteriously gone missing from *the Gateway* news team's desk. Like the Hardy Boys, they'll stop at nothing to find the perpetrator of this disgraceful act.

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We're your gateway to solving crimes that matter.

NEWS MEETINGS FRIDAYS AT 3 PM IN 3-04 SUB

Quebec students plan back to school strikes

Erin Hudson
CUP QUEBEC BUREAU CHIEF

MONTREAL (CUP) — This year's "back-to-school" season means back to the picket lines for Quebec students as efforts to mobilize against the province's special legislation, Law 12 (formerly the controversial Bill 78) kick into high gear. Law 12 has mandated some Quebec students to head back to class tomorrow to finish the spring term affected by the student strike.

The mandated return to class is viewed as a make-or-break moment for the student movement, which has been mobilizing against Quebec's scheduled tuition hikes since they were announced in March 2011.

The law, which came into effect May 18, also includes provisions to maintain "peace, order and public security."

Provisions include the submission of an itinerary to the presiding police force eight hours in advance of any demonstration with 50 or more people in attendance.

The law gives the police force the right to alter the itinerary of the demonstration in order to uphold "peace, order and public security."

In anticipation of resistance to the resumption of classes, the Montreal police service, Service de police de la Ville de Montréal (SPVM), released a set of guidelines on Friday outlining how the force would apply Law 12.

The SPVM states officers will not intervene in relation to Law 12 unless they are requested to do so by "the executives of educational institutions."

"We're working closely with people from schools because imagine, for instance, if we physically force the entry of some people within a school, and at the end of it they



SUPPLIED

decide there won't be any class. That would not be justified for us," said Ian Lafrenière, coordinator of media relations for the SPVM.

According to Lafrenière, more than 300 SPVM officers have obtained the jurisdiction required to apply provincial legislation, like Law 12, within the municipal territory of Montreal.

"As I mentioned last spring, Law 12, it's a tool. It's one of the tools that we have. If you remember correctly, last spring we never applied Law 12 (then Bill 78). We never had to use it," Lafrenière said.

Other tools used by the SPVM thus far in the student strike include the Criminal Code and municipal bylaw P-6 — voted into effect in Montreal the same day as Law 12 — which bans the wearing of masks at demonstrations and declares illegal any assemblies of 50 people or more that do not provide an itinerary.

Lafrenière noted that officers would intervene to apply the Criminal Code if criminal acts occur during the back-to-school/strike actions.

The call to re-block classes by forming picket lines outside classrooms or school buildings comes from the Back-to-Strike Convergence which, according to

their website, is looking to mobilize supporters from surrounding provinces and the USA in addition to local students.

"Law 12, it's a tool. It's one of the tools that we have. If you remember correctly, last spring we never applied Law 12 ... We never had to use it."

IAN LAFRENIÈRE
MEDIA RELATIONS COORDINATOR, SPVM

Bloquons la Rentrée — the web platform calling students to re-block classes — and the convergence are among several groups working independent of the four major student federations and are calling for students to resist the application of Law 12 starting August 13.

"As a father of two kids I would love to tell you that it's not going to happen — that everyone is going to be safe and sound next week and we won't have to intervene at all ... (but) I have no clue," said Lafrenière.

"We'll be there, we'll get ready for the worst, but we'll be expecting and hoping for the best."

UBC researcher hopes to take the stigma out of HIV testing

Marion Benkaïouche
THE UBYSSY (UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA)

VANCOUVER (CUP) — A new HIV prevention initiative pioneered by a UBC researcher seeks to expand HIV testing beyond only at-risk communities, focusing instead on those who are at a low risk of infection or believe that they are HIV-negative.

"We're trying to take the stigma out of the equation," explains Dr. Julio Montaner, director of the B.C. Centre for Excellence and head of the AIDS division in the UBC Faculty of Medicine.

"We no longer want to target HIV testing to people who are at risk, because we've done that already. We want to confirm that 99 plus per cent of society is negative, but help those who don't know their status or are unsuspecting and help them get access to proper treatment."

Montaner intends to test the general public on a strictly voluntary basis. The program uses a rapid-result test that takes only 60 seconds to determine a patient's status.

If the result is positive, this is confirmed by a second test run in a full lab.

Anyone who has been sexually

active in the last five decades could be at risk for the disease, Montaner said.

Various rapid-testing clinics have sporadically offered the 60-second test on UBC campus, but UBC Student Health Services currently only offers the full lab HIV test with a longer wait.

"We no longer want to target HIV testing to people who are at risk, because we've done that already. We want to confirm that 99 plus per cent of societ is negative."

JULIO MONTANER
DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR EXCELLENCE

Reactions across UBC varied; many students had no qualms about taking or retaking an HIV test.

Testing costs would be subsidized by Vancouver Coastal Health. Montaner argues that the cost of testing should pay for itself in the future by making sure HIV-positive

people begin treatment early.

An earlier program involved giving the rapid HIV test to 20,000 patients at St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital and other Vancouver clinics.

Patients visiting for a non-HIV/AIDS related complaint were offered a rapid HIV test, and 97 per cent accepted.

While acceptance was high, "the rate of offer was less than 50 per cent," reported Dr. Montaner. "Doctors or nurses didn't have the time or the confidence to (offer the test)."

According to Montaner, 21 per cent of HIV-positive individuals are unaware of their status, and infected people who don't know their status account for 54 per cent of new infections.

"If we could test everybody in British Columbia today, we could potentially find 3,500 HIV-positive individuals and virtually end HIV transmission in the province," said Montaner.

"We're trying to use B.C. as a testing ground for how far we can push the envelope and eradicate this epidemic," said Montaner. "People infected with HIV need treatment. Full stop."

Opinion

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Volunteer

Opinion meetings Wednesdays at 5 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Taxi strike a way for cab drivers to dodge from accountability

DRIVERS EVERYWHERE KNOW THAT WHEN YOU GET INTO AN accident and you're at fault, your insurance rates are going to go up. When you cause an accident, you have to pay for it one way or another. That may seem like a simple fact of life to some, but it hasn't stopped a number of local cab drivers from striking over a policy that would see cab drivers at fault pay an insurance surcharge when they're involved in a preventable accident.

The policy in question involves a surcharge of up to \$6,200 over three years. A cab driver would have to pay when they're involved in a collision that their employer deems preventable. But according to Edmonton Taxi Group Service President Phil Strong, the \$6,200 maximum penalty would only be applicable when the driver has a severe accident. And the better a driver's record is, the less they would have to pay. Yet cab drivers still feel they're being treated unfairly.

Striking cab drivers think the surcharge is too much to pay on top of the insurance they already pay for renting a cab and that it unfairly singles out cab drivers. Yet they seem to be missing one simple idea: if you don't want to pay the surcharge, don't get into an accident.

Of course it's not that black and white. Accidents do happen and a driver of any vehicle is not immune to the actions of other drivers or other circumstances beyond their control. But once again, the surcharge only applies to drivers at fault. And a lot of accidents are entirely preventable.

Spokesman for Teamsters Union Local 987 and supporter of the strike David Froelich has criticized the penalty, stating: "If a driver slides into a snow bank or backs into a concrete pillar, he's subject to a \$6,000 penalty." But Froelich's assertion is a major exaggeration of the situation. It's completely unreasonable to claim that a driver would pay the maximum penalty if they were involved in a minor fender bender. This penalty isn't designed to single out cab drivers over an accident; it's meant to hold these drivers accountable and increase public safety. A cab driver might be more cautious when they're driving if they know they'll have to pay several thousand dollars for causing an accident.

Evidence shows the surcharge is doing more good than harm. Yellow Cab has claimed that accidents have decreased 60 per cent at the company since the policy was adopted. With numbers like that, it's near impossible to argue the surcharge is detrimental. Striking cab drivers are trying to weasel out of responsibility for their actions.

A question that the striking cab drivers fail to answer is: why shouldn't someone have to pay for their accident? Yes, the surcharge is levelled on top of the insurance premiums cab drivers already pay, but if they're at fault in an accident and they are required to pay the maximum penalty, chances are the accident was severe enough to warrant the surcharge. Severe automobile accidents like that should not be a regular occurrence.

If nothing else, cab drivers need to be held to a higher standard when they're on the clock. Their job is to drive members of the public around to wherever they need to go. It's not at all unreasonable for cab companies to try and do the most they can for the safety of their clients. If a steep fine is the incentive that cab drivers need to drive safely, then it shouldn't even be a matter of negotiation. The safety of the passengers needs to be first and foremost at a cab company.

Fortunately for customers, cab service in Edmonton has not been drastically affected by the strikes. And recently Edmonton Taxi Service Group has begun locking out drivers that they see on the picket lines. It may seem harsh to some, but if that's what is needed to get the message across to these drivers, then that's what needs to be done. This strike is a way for cab drivers to try to negotiate their way out of responsibility for their driving practices. No one should feel sorry for them.

Darcy Ropchan

OPINION EDITOR

MOONOTORIAL LAMENT

Who will Moon walk now?

Though three of the 12 astronauts to walk on the Moon preceded him in death, the passing of Neil Armstrong brings us one giant leap towards a future in which no living human has stepped foot on another celestial body.

Few people watching in 1969 would have bet on a 2012 four decades removed from human presence on the moon. Robots on Mars accomplish a lot of important scientific work, but this week, manned-space flight outside Earth's orbit seems more a dream than in Kennedy's day.

Ryan Bromsgrove

EDITOR-IN-SPACE



ROSS VINCENT

letters to the editor

Administration facillitating problems they're trying to prevent

Lister Hall was my first home away from home, where I lived for two years (2000-2002). During my second year, administration made a policy that students could only return for years beyond their first if they returned in a student leadership capacity (like a floor coordinator, RA, or executive). Residents were consulted, many of whom felt that losing the mentorship and examples provided by experienced students would be detrimental to life at Lister.

Administration won-out, citing that dorms of the same style as Lister are first-year-only residences at most universities.

Considering all of the policy changes made since I lived on 10 Henday, I am not surprised with the increased costs related to violations of the Community Standards. Since when is a "community" only made up of 18 to 19-year-olds? Apparently ageism (in the form of years of study completed) is an acceptable form of discrimination in residence. I also see that the U of A now supports closet drinking in residence; how safe and responsible!

Shame on my alma mater for implementing these changes. The legacy of their endeavors will undoubtedly perpetuate stereotypical symbols of life in college dorms and create a social climate that sustains the negative behavior these amendments are designed to halt.

Andrea Quint Fleck

B.A ENGLISH, 2004

FROM THE WEB

Cutting out older students will do no good

(Re: "The goal for Lister change is control," by Ryan Bromsgrove, July 30)

An article more adjective than fact bugs me- that time could have been spent elaborating on the plans the U of A has failed in rolling out in the past, making this an actual two-sided debate.

But you make a good point. When I stayed in Lister, it seemed like the FAs were very important to the overall experience, especially for traditions like SKULK and just gaining some perspective in a new environment.

Cutting the older students out of Lister gives me a bad feeling. And from what you've provided, the intent seems awfully subversive...

Mike D

VIA WEB

LHSA a hindrance to Residence Services

(Re: "Meeting documents reveal Lister consultations," by April Hudson, July 30)

In January 2012, Residence Services brought forward their plan of a First-Year Curriculum and staffing changes to Joint Council, the governing body of the Lister Hall's Students Association. Joint Council responded enthusiastically to the idea of a First-Year Curriculum, but were never informed of any plans for an exclusively first-year Lister where returners are banned. Res Services

comment that "it seemed like the LHSA continuously tries to hinder all initiatives that Residence Services tries to implement in Lister" is simply unfair. We encouraged Res Services to provide information on the type of programming they would like their student staff members to provide. However, they persisted in shutting us out of their planning.

Kristen Horton

VIA WEB

U of A admin taking Harperian approach with Lister changes

(Re: "The goal for Lister change is control," by Ryan Bromsgrove, July 30)

Let us hope their approach will be Hegelian. Since 2008 they have tried to insert these changes, but never all of them in one proposal, and certainly never tried to change it in the summer. This is an omnibus bill, at a timing where students are at their weakest. I would say their approach is closer to Harperian than Hegelian

Anonymous

VIA WEB

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous, or otherwise hateful in nature. Letters should be no longer than 350 words and should contain your name, program and year of study.

ASS OF THE YEAR?



Quebec students have been protesting tuition hikes that would take them from being the province with the lowest tuition, to being the province with the still lowest tuition. Freedom fighters, or ass of the year?

gateway *opinion*

MEETINGS WEDNESDAY AT 5 IN 3-04 SUB

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA

Lack of national school meal program is a cause for concern



Tamara Aschenbrenner
OPINION WRITER

It's alarming that Canada is the only G8 country without a national school meal program. Perhaps more alarming is that no one seems to care. We've been so busy condemning other countries over their obesity rates, and the American Congress' declaration of pizza as a vegetable, that we've let 25 per cent of our children and teens become overweight or obese. And people can't seem to agree on who is responsible for their wellbeing. If other health topics are the joint responsibility of the federal government, provincial government and parents, then nutrition should not be given special treatment.

School meal programs are meant to address a student body's nutritional needs. Due to reasons ranging from poor nutritional awareness to busy schedules or poverty, children and teens often do not or cannot receive their daily nutritional requirements. A poor diet contributes to a wide range of health problems, from obesity to diabetes, while hunger contributes to poor school performance. Therefore, some provinces and schools have implemented several strategies, such as replacing soda and unhealthy snacks in vending machines or changing the food served in the cafeteria. The key to a meal plan is to provide students with a nutritionally balanced lunch.

However, only a few provinces and schools have adopted programs, and even these minorities could use some improvement. For example, the B.C. School Fruit & Vegetable Nutritional Program provides fresh fruit and



YUMMY There should be a national school meal program for kids. SELENA PHILLIPS-BOYLE

vegetables to the province's students every other week. While a noble endeavor in theory, it's only a small band-aid for the bigger issue — unless Canada's Food Guide received a revision that wasn't made public. Or maybe we should be more concerned with the province's math skills if it believes that feeding students every other week will help them meet their required four-eight servings per day.

Health Canada seems to believe that posting this guide and information about nutrition labels on their website provides the country with the federal government's guidance on the matter. Health is a federal concern, but nutrition is apparently solely a provincial one. Nutrition should fit under the health umbrella. Even Americans have high-status advocates for national health, with several school meals plans in place and a desire for further growth in health and nutrition. We need a Michelle Obama — founder of the Let's Move campaign — up here to give our government the wake-up call it needs.

Although this would stir up a whole new set of issues, there's always the potential debate around our democracy and people's rights. Who do politicians think they are, telling us what we can and cannot eat or feed to our children? I doubt Harper would send the KGB to your house because you made your child Kraft Dinner instead of a salad, but it would be easier if we were all in on a joint effort to promote healthy lifestyles to our youngsters. Instead of being a future drain on the health care system because of high cholesterol and multiple bypasses, children could just eat their daily fruits and veggies and put down that second cupcake.

The health of Canadian children and teens is not a provincial issue — at least, not entirely. The federal government has a responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to proper nutrition, and a national school meal program should be just the beginning. This is an issue that shouldn't even need debate. A national program is needed.

Enough with innacurate science reporting



Adrian Lahola-Chomiak
OPINION STAFF

The idea of gateway drugs is flawed as it is, but a new study from researchers at Yale might have you believe it's as simple as correlation. Well, to be fair, it is actually media reporting on the study coming to the conclusion that alcohol is a bigger gateway drug than marijuana. Like a snowball rolling down a vague hill of bullshit, one example from *The Raw Story* compounded mistakes from overreaching research conclusions and journalistic laziness to deliver a subpar report on correlation between prescription opiate use and prior substance use. Bad reporting on science is all too common these days and it needs to be corrected.

Researchers at Yale used statistical tools to analyze data from the National Survey on Drug Use in the United States. Their study found 57 per cent of prescription opiate abusers drank alcohol prior to their substance abuse while 56 per cent had smoked cigarettes and only 34 per cent had previously used marijuana. So the data suggests that people who drink and smoke cigarettes are more likely to pop T3s than those who listen to Pink Floyd and smoke wacky tobacco, right? In a word, no. The study is a piece of evidence in the investigation into drug abuse

and the abusers history.

That's interesting, but it is certainly not enough evidence to makes claims such as "Alcohol's Gateway Effect Much Larger Than Marijuana's" as *The Raw Story* did. What it means is people who admitted to abusing prescription drugs had varying levels of experience with other mind-altering substances beforehand.

This research doesn't look at the proportion of people who drink alcohol or smoke marijuana who subsequently develop prescription drug abuse problems. Although fewer people who abuse prescription opiates may have previously smoked marijuana, a larger percentage of marijuana users may go on to experiment with those opiates than those who drink alcohol or smoke. More people have experiences with alcohol than almost any other drug so it's not surprising most prescription drug abusers have drank prior to developing opiate use habits.

Alone, the study is an analysis of data from National Survey on Drug Use in the United States. But put it through the grind of the 24-hour news cycle and headline-centric media culture and it becomes the turning point in the alcohol versus marijuana debate. News outlets are always looking for stories, and if they always approached that goal with the necessary journalistic integrity and thoroughness that would be a great thing. Unfortunately, many major media outlets and online publications seem more focused on push-

ing out stories on things that sound important than things that actually are.

At the end of the day, science just isn't sexy and interesting enough to fit into the standard media report tone. Science is about small, incremental and tentative results building to larger conclusion whereas many news outlets are looking to frame every bit of research as an exciting frontier push.

Recently some work done in Dr. Mario Feldman's lab at the University of Alberta on the surface of bacteria got turned into a story about the development of super antibiotics to save us all. The surface work was certainly interesting but it wasn't what it was hyped up to be. The major reason why news outlets report on science like this is because that's how the reader wants it. People lap up every bullshit cancer cure story they can find. This gateway drug story was no doubt a reassuring pat on the back for the stoner activists who believe marijuana is the cure for all ailments in the world — but all that information is being suppressed by pharmaceutical companies and the man.

I decided a long time ago that the only good use for most science news articles is the fact that they link to the actual study way down at the bottom of the page. Reading the source may not be as exciting but it's always more accurate. Sensationalist reporting is bad for everyone but as long as people keep soaking it up uncritically it isn't going anywhere.

The most regrettable blunders of summer 2012



**Opinion
Staff**
GROUP COMMENTARY

The summer of 2012 was a wild one. *The Gateway* would like to count down the most memorable screw-ups of the summer season.

Ryan Bromsgrove

The re-naming of Capital Ex to K-Days was a pretty big failure earlier this summer. You may recall the kerfuffle over changing the name of “Klondike Days” to “Capital Ex” in the first place. Out with the history and character, in with the soulless “hip” option.

I mean, anything with the “x” sound in it must be cool.

I’m sure the focus groups loved it, but after years of shitty ticket sales, someone somewhere finally decided to admit they made a mistake. But what to do? Come up with a better name? Admit defeat and revert to the old one? Nah, fuck it, let’s crowd source the problem, shortlist the predictable suggestion of the previous name and wait for the obvious to happen. And happen it did — it wasn’t even close. K-Days handily took 38,762 of 51,000 votes.

“It’s really a brilliant choice,” said Richard Andersen, president and CEO of Northlands. Yeah. You’re welcome.

Darcy Ropchan

This summer has been full of



WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING? The next time you think you can help by doing some home restorations to some old art, do us all a favour and don’t. SUPPLIED

so many screw-ups it’s hard to choose the most monumental. But the one that takes the cake is 80-year-old Celia Gimenez and her accidental desecration of a priceless 19th century painting of Jesus Christ.

How does one ruin a 200-year-old painting? Well Gimenez was only trying to help. She noticed the painting had fallen into disrepair, and so she took it upon herself to touch it up a bit. But like most times when old people try to help, Gimenez just wound up making things even worse. What began as a little touch-up turned

into a complete overhaul of the painting. After Gimenez completed her restorations, the painting was unrecognizable from its original form. Jesus went from looking like a heavenly diety, to more like a half-baked muppet.

I’m sure the old woman had the best of intentions when she tried to fix the picture, but come on Celia, did you really think you could improve upon the artwork? Did you really think you’re that special? Instead of fixing a painting you became the laughing stock of the world. I hope you’re happy Celia — you may have made the



biggest fuck-up of the summer. April Hudson

North Korea was a pretty big failure this summer. It tried to launch a long-range rocket in the face of international warnings, which ended up falling apart a few minutes after launch.

A few hours later, they shamefacedly admitted to the failure. That probably wasn’t a good day to be a North Korean rocket scientist.

It wasn’t a good day to be Kim Jong-Un either, since the launch was supposed to mark 100 years

since the birth of his grandfather, Kim Il-Sung, who founded North Korea. Talk about letting down the family name.

Not only was it anti-climactic, but it also marks more than a decade of failure for North Korean missiles, and definitely made an international statement — just not the one North Korea intended.

Instead of amping up its image as an aggressor nation, now it just looks like that poor kid who tries to be cool around his friends, except everybody knows he still wets the bed. You’re not fooling anyone North Korea.

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SPORTS MEETINGS THURSDAYS AT 4 PM IN 3-04 SUB

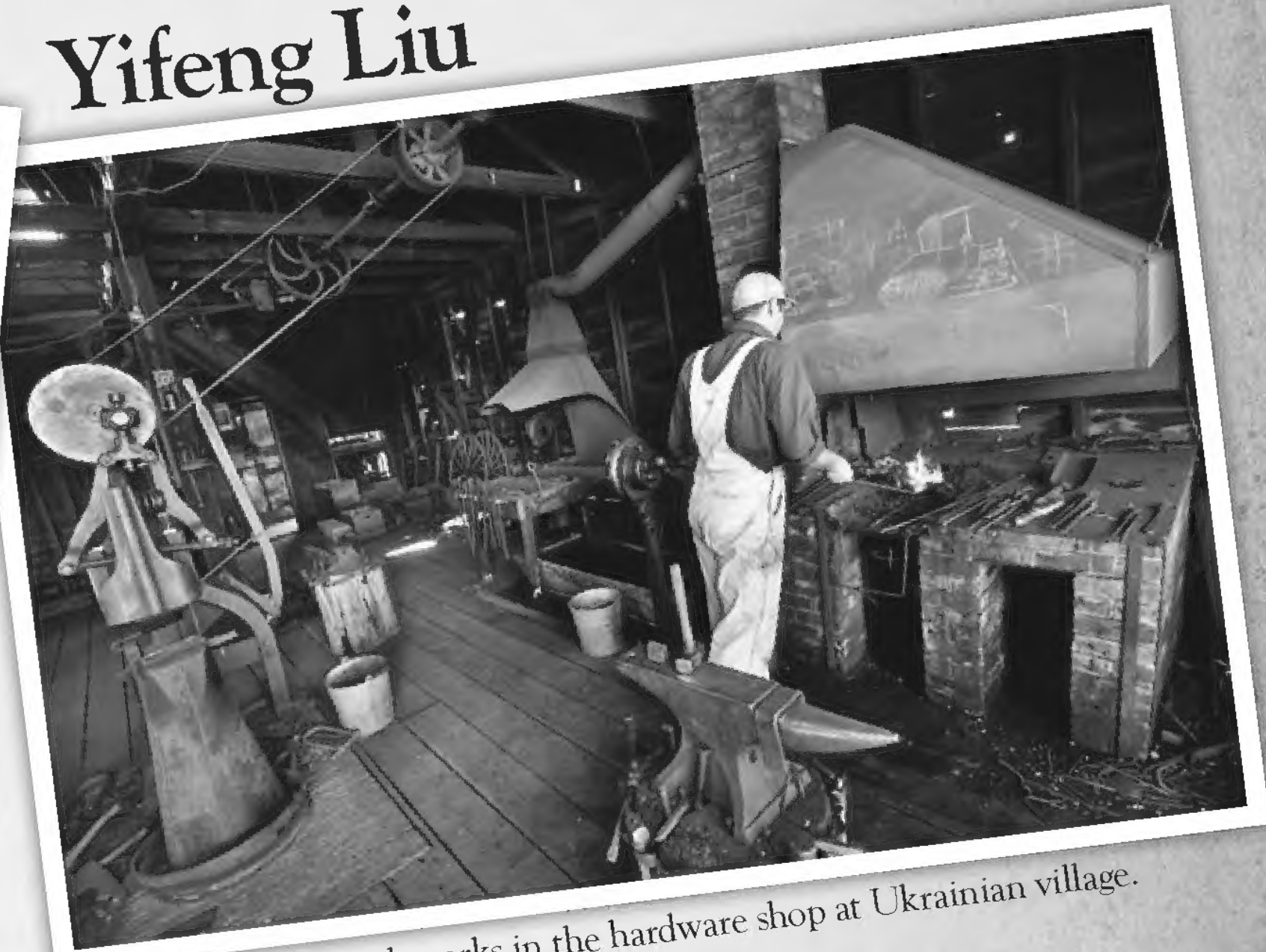
online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/SPORTS

Summer: A Season in Pictures



A May sunset at the Victoria harbour in Victoria, BC.

Yifeng Liu



A blacksmith works in the hardware shop at Ukrainian village.

Paul Swanson

I spent a lot of time outside this summer — not so much in the city, but more or less in the middle of farmland or bushes. Who knew I could take so many pictures of the sky?

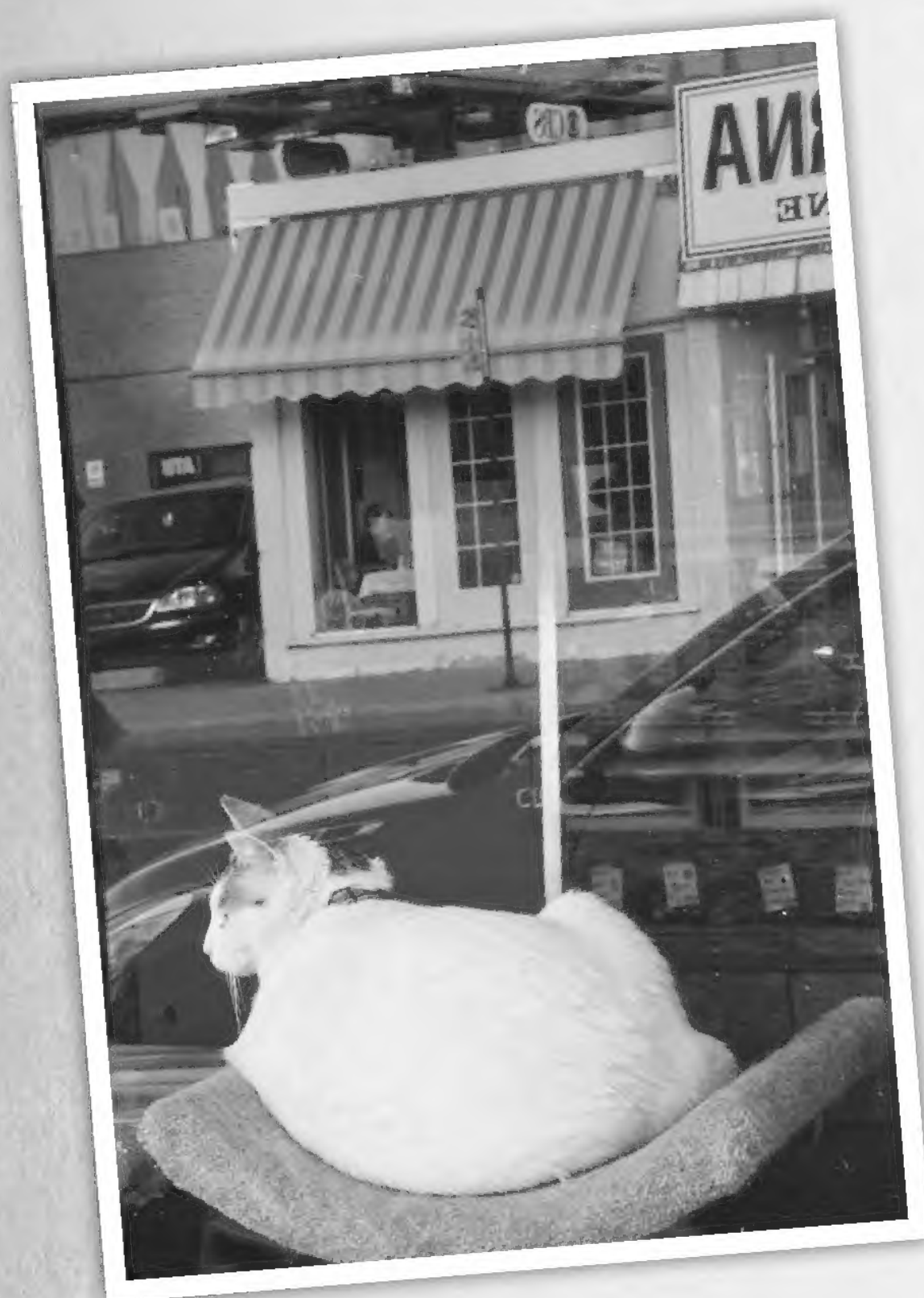


Dan McKechnie



Shibani Balasubramanian

I took this image of my family enjoying the beautiful sun as it set over the hills on a windy evening. It reminds me to take a break during my stressful days and just relax while enjoying the moment.



AmirAli Sharifi

I like windows, and I photographed them a lot this past year — mostly reflections. Windows open a conversation between the people inside and the people outside. Reflection in a window puts both inside world and outside world onto each other, making a new augmented reality.



Selena Phillips-Boyle



Arts & Culture

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social
intercourse

COMPILED BY Paige Gorsak

For a Good Time, Call...
Written by Lauren Miller and Katie Anne Naylor
Directed by Jamie Travis
Starring Lauren Miller, Ari Graynor, Justin Long
and James Wolk
Opens Friday, Aug. 31

Trying to follow in the footsteps of successful female-written and R-rated comedy *Bridesmaids*, *For a Good Time Call...* forgoes the regular love story plot and dives into the world of female friendship with raunchy comedy. Starring Ari Graynor and Lauren Miller as college foes who end up rooming together in New York City, the story focuses on their attempts to start a phone sex company for some extra cash. While its description and ridiculous movie poster suggest otherwise, the film opened at Sundance to positive critic reviews, with many loving the female-centric plot line and focus on friendship.

Sonic Boom
Sunday, Sept. 2 at 11:30 a.m.
Northlands Grounds (7515 118 Ave.)
\$105.25 at ticketmaster.ca

While folkies get their jollies at Folk Fest and country fans seek satisfaction at Big Valley Jamboree, Edmonton's alternative rock and indie crowd can look forward to the end-of-summer music festival, Sonic Boom. Now in its third year, the festival is hosted by local radio station Sonic 102.9 FM and features a lineup of big name acts with catchy singles: indie darlings Young the Giant, the ever-catchy Fun. and your junior high favourites, Linkin Park. The show is outdoors, rain or shine, and with Edmonton's recent explosion of mosquitoes and the summer's ceaseless rainfall, bug spray and umbrellas will be your best friends as you rock out once more before school starts up

Girl Talk
With guests
Tuesday, Sept. 4 at 8 p.m.
Edmonton Event Centre (8882 170 St.)
\$37.50 at ticketmaster.ca

Spanning decades and genres with sample-based compositions, mash-up artist Gregg Gillis walks the fine line of copyright laws with his musical act Girl Talk. His experimental DJ style focuses on blending top 40 hits with golden oldies and everything in between. The result is catchy tunes that have Ludacris fans rocking out to Black Sabbath riffs and Simon and Garfunkel devotees unknowingly singing along to Lil Jon. With the law trying to find a way to charge his mash-ups with copyright infringement, you better catch the dubious DJ at Edmonton Event Centre while you can.

Gotye
With Chairlift and Jonti
Tuesday, Aug. 28 at 7 p.m.
Shaw Conference Centre (9797 101 Ave.)
\$70 at ticketmaster.ca

One of the biggest new artists of 2012, Wouter De Backer, also known as Gotye, is hitting Edmonton in all his angst-filled glory. The Belgian-Australian musician, who's probably most recognizable when painted over in multi-colored triangles, is sure to break out his hit song "Somebody That I Used to Know" for all to weep along. While the song has become one of the most overplayed tunes on the radio, there's no denying its potential for hilarious parodies and enthusiastic singalongs while you take in the performance.



New York band Fun. stumble upon accidental mainstream acclaim

MUSIC PREVIEW

Fun.

WITH Linkin Park, Incubus, Silversun Pickups and more

WHEN Sunday, Sept. 2 at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE Edmonton Northland Grounds (7515 118 Ave.)

HOW MUCH \$105.25 at ticketmaster.ca

Alana Willerton
ARTS & CULTURE EDITOR • @ALANAWILLERTON

The transformation seemed to take place almost overnight for the members of Fun. One minute they were just another underground alternative band, and the next, their single “We Are Young” was skyrocketing up the charts, shooting the group into instantaneous mainstream success.

For a group of musicians who’ve made their name off live performances, a sudden burst of popularity at the hands of a number one single has been an unexpected turn — to say the least. While their first album *Aim and Ignite* barely made it into the top 75 of the US Billboard 200 back in 2009, the band managed to cultivate a strong fanbase through dedicated touring and live performances that lead singer Nate Ruess describes as “a celebration.” But their second album *Some Nights* has been quite another story thanks to the popularity of hit singles “We Are Young” and “Some Nights.”

“I always just expected this band to continue to get bigger and bigger live,” explains Ruess. “I never had any aspirations — especially having been in the music industry as long as I have — of having any sort of hit song. I just always thought it would be a cult sort of thing and we’d just continue to get bigger and make better albums every single time. And then suddenly this stuff happened.”

With *Some Nights* climbing the charts worldwide and turning Fun. into one of the biggest

names in the music industry, the transition into a mainstream powerhouses hasn’t been an easy one for the band. Now forced to spend valuable time doing television performances and publicity, they just want to get back to their live performances, where their true passion lies. While they’re grateful for the attention and new fans the album’s two singles brought them, it’s not something they ever expected — or even really hoped for.

■ **“There’s a lot about this that can feel a little soul-crushing, and to know that we just played it by being ourselves makes it feel so much better. I would feel uneasy if I thought that there were any sort of shortcuts.”**

NATE RUESS
LEAD VOCALS, FUN.

“I’ve never been one to conform to anything, so I think it was just a really lucky case of people eventually coming to us,” Ruess says. “This isn’t a sound that we consciously made in order to have success like this by any stretch of the imagination. That’s just never been who I am. I’ve never felt the need to be desperate. This is something that I’m so thrilled to have right now, but it’s not something I spent every night dreaming about.”

The irony of the situation isn’t lost on Ruess, who spent several years as a member of the band The Format before forming Fun. From The Format’s band name to some of the songs they penned, Ruess rebelled against the demands of the label companies who only cared about producing cookie-cutter hit singles. Years later as a member of Fun., Ruess now finds himself in the role of the hit-maker, and he admits it hasn’t been without its consequences.

“I think that it’s taken a toll as far as I’m not exactly a people person, and we’ve been thrust

into meeting a whole bunch new people and stuff like that. I wouldn’t say that I’m a jerk by any stretch of the imagination, but it can just be trying,” he says. “There’s a lot about this that can feel a little soul-crushing, and to know that we just played it by being ourselves makes it feel so much better. I would feel uneasy if I thought that there were any sort of shortcuts.”

While he admits that hearing Fun. associated with mainstream over alternative music makes him cringe a bit, Ruess has accepted that their music has begun to cross the borders of genre. He takes comfort in the fact that they made the album for themselves, and their songs are being played on pop radio stations because that’s what the stations choose to play, not because he’s begging them to play it.

“Hearing all the music that has been on the radio the last few years, I would’ve never thought any of our stuff stood a chance,” Ruess admits. “I love a pop song as much as anyone, but it seems like the bad songs — and some have been terrible pop songs — didn’t leave room for anything else. So it doesn’t seem as bleak as I once thought it was, which makes me excited to try and push that envelope a little more on the next album.”

Despite the fact that their claim to fame has come at them a different way than they were expecting, Ruess has chosen to revel in their achievement and what it will mean for the future of Fun. With *Some Nights* now claiming the distinction of being the first rock debut in ten years to go to number one in the United States, he’s hopeful this will mark the turning of the tide in the music industry.

“Like anything in the world, people are acknowledging that things are getting tiresome and that it’s time for a change,” Ruess says. “I think it’s been us and a few other bands that have been able to do it, and I’m thankful to be a part of that and maybe open up people’s minds to listening to a little more diverse type of stuff. I think diversity is good for everybody.”

StageLab showcases hidden talents of drama department

U of A drama stages second annual festival of unconventional productions

THEATRE PREVIEW

StageLab Theatre Festival

WHEN ➤ Monday, Aug. 27 - Friday, Aug. 31 at 4:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

WHERE ➤ Timms Centre for the Arts (87 Avenue and 112 Street)

PRESENTED BY ➤ University of Alberta Department of Drama

HOW MUCH ➤ Free

Paige Gorsak

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @PAIGEGORSK

STAGELAB • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"The original idea was that there's all these amazing people in the drama department — faculty, staff, actors and academics. They develop all these projects in their work, but rarely get to present them to audiences," explains festival producer Priscilla Yakielashek. "StageLab gives them the opportunity to show their work and their research to the public, to their colleagues and the rest of the university. Really, it's a humble way of sounding the trumpets for what they do."

The process starts with one member of the department at the helm of each of the festival's seven productions. From there, the pieces expand outwards, gathering talent from throughout the university community.

"Many of (the department members) are working with university graduates, current students and people from other faculties," Yakielashek explains. "Ultimately, that's one of the main criticisms about the drama department or any department — we should be sharing our work with other departments and working together."

As the collaborations grow and expand from across campus to across the country, the scope of talent involved is as diverse as the scope of this year's productions. Filling up several spaces in the Timms Centre for the Arts, the original works vary in form: dance pieces, a sound installation and a foreign language play adaptation are just some of the many media of theatre involved. For many of the department members, it's a chance to explore new formats entirely by



SUPPLIED: JOSIAH HIEMSTRA

going beyond their usual academic environment.

The result is an amalgamation of distinctive and interesting theatre created by the very people who teach it to students. Further motivating the contributors to that end is the incorporation of a theme, with last year's production focused on the concept of new Canadian works.

"This year, we asked people to consider the idea of 'in-between' and put their show around that concept," Yakielashek says. "The biggest thing we have happening is playing with in-between spaces — really thinking outside the box of where we can present the stage and how we can organize the audience relationship with the performers."

The productions vary from using the traditional space on the Timms

Centre stage to more unexpected locations. One show uses the prop storage room to present to the audience, while a sound installation occupies the walkway area that connects the Timms Centre to FAB. The result, Yakielashek explains, is a surprising and unconventional atmosphere that audiences don't often find in theatre, allowing them to get a closer look at the abilities of the very people teaching them at the university.

"None of the forms really follow a typical, proper play format — the boundaries between audience and stage open up," she says. "It's really an inviting atmosphere: intimate and informal."

"With StageLab, you're really surrounded by theatre instead of sitting back and watching it from a distance."

classical soundscape that matches the lush American frontier, rife with calming strings, soaring horns and beating drums. As nature gives way to the industrial revolution, Deacon's classical instruments replaced by synthesized beats, alternating between flaring electronica and quaint minimalism. Deacon's at his best as the bombastic "USA II: The Great American Desert" segues into "USA III: Rail," a piece that uses beautifully evocative repetition to take the listener on a rolling journey across the country by train.

Despite Deacon's apparent discomfort with the direction the country is heading, *America* is more an exercise in discovering the beauty that remains both in its landscape and people. Deacon blends these ingredients into a compelling hybrid of forms that implants classical music into the modern electronic age.

Dan Deacon *America*

Domino Records
dandeacon.com

Ryan Stephens

ARTS & CULTURE STAFF ■ @STEPHENSJRYAN

ALBUM REVIEW



Never content with conventional storytelling, electronic producer Dan Deacon is a supreme talent when it comes to creating a powerful symphonic narrative. On his latest album, *America*, Deacon contrasts classical instrumentation with experimental electronica, creating a musical story that seems to unfold across centuries of his historical homeland.

Divided into two halves, the first part of the album contains several

noise pop anthems, each producing a sensory overload of traditional and electronic instrumentation. With these, Deacon displays the lively possibilities of musical collaboration by emphasizing his use of a 30-person community of musicians, all of whom he names on the album's back cover.

The album's second half features a single 20-minute song titled "USA," divided into four movements. Deacon first creates a

fashion streeters

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Alana Willerton



GATEWAY: ➤ Describe what you're wearing.

DANIELLE: ➤ I'm wearing this light blouse that is a high-low cut from Forever 21. I have leggings on from Gap and my shoes are a two-toned, studded beige colour from Lucky Brand. My glasses are from Forever 21.

GATEWAY: ➤ What's your favourite thing you have on?

DANIELLE: ➤ Probably my leggings — they're so comfortable.



Check out thegatewayonline.ca/fashionstreeters for more photos.

Lawless breaks gangster movie rules

FILM REVIEW

Lawless

WHEN ▶ Opens Aug. 29
WRITTEN BY ▶ Nick Cave
DIRECTED BY ▶ John Hillcoat
STARRING ▶ Tom Hardy, Shia LaBeouf, Guy Pierce, Jessica Chastain and Gary Oldman

Ryan Stephens
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @STEPHENSJRYAN

The era of prohibition gave rise to an array of cheaters, criminals and killers, destroying families and creating legends out of ordinary men and women looking to make a living. This backdrop of crime and punishment focuses *Lawless* on the intense strain placed on brotherhood and love within the profitable yet violent business of bootlegging.

An adaptation of the novel *The Wettest County in the World*, the title refers to the complete saturation of the bootlegging business for the population of Franklin County, Virginia. The film wastes no time showing that almost everybody — even the lawmakers — have a stake in the moonshine game. But despite their dependence on the business, the Bondurant brothers have difficulty working together to achieve a common profitable goal. Jack (Shia LaBeouf), young, timid and idealistic, is noticeably less violent than his older brothers Howard (Jason Clarke) and Forrest (Tom Hardy), and struggles to keep up with their ideas of conflict resolution with bloodied knuckles.

Going beyond the usual shootouts and blood splatters, *Lawless* opts for a more memorable route by keeping the gory moments sparse but intense, ensuring the audience leaves the theatre with a sick feeling in their stomach. By the mid point of the film, it's difficult not to cover your eyes every time a knife or gun is pulled out of genuine fear for what's going to unfold.



The idea that violence is not only necessary for survival but intrinsically tied to the formation of legacy and legend is a topic explored repeatedly by every character in the film. Forrest in particular has become a legend within the county as an indestructible force not to be messed with — and some believe he's of Cherokee descent, apparently giving him powers of immortality that allow him to survive both a war and a nasty flu epidemic.

By including a mythical angle to the narrative, the film runs the risk of becoming unbelievable and even somewhat comedic. Fortunately, the talented cast delivers with well-rounded and intelligent characters rather than stereotypical hillbillies, ensuring there could be some truth to all the mythical stories.

Tom Hardy shines in another ruthless performance on the heels of his role as the insurmountable villain Bane in *The Dark Night Rises*. This time, Hardy plays both a leader and brother whose every word is caring, yet simultaneously political in its motivations. The only real casting misstep in this film is Gary Oldman's role, who in his brief but superb turn as a notorious mobster feels heavily underused given his character's potential and his own acting cred.

The narrative in *Lawless* has a carefule uncommo in western gangster films. More than simply a historical crime film, *Lawless* combines family drama, historical fiction and cringe-worthy gore into a story that, like the legendary Bondurant brothers, won't soon be forgotten.

ALBUM REVIEW



Passenger All the Little Lights

Cooking Vlnyl
passengermusic.com

Katherine Speur
ARTS & CULTURE STAFF • @KATHERINESPEUR

There's more to Passenger — and his sound — than just a charming British accent. Meshing clever lyrics with a lighthearted and mellow vibe, Passenger creates an inviting collection of songs with acoustic melodies and a romantic spirit on his fifth album, *All the Little Lights*.

Passenger expertly seduces his listeners by starting the album off slow and steady, singing in a raspy voice about his former encounters with love and loss. Without a hint of pretentiousness, Passenger keeps his lyrics clear and to the point. He picks up the pace towards the middle of the album with "The Wrong Direction," a cute and addictive story-like song about the confusing and intoxicating aspects of love. The last track, "I Hate," is the only live song on the album and serves as a refreshing and dynamic finish while highlighting his ability to come up with humorous lyrics.

Passenger's gentle musical stories are just as likely to pull at listener's heartstrings as they are to tickle their funny bones. Like in his previous albums, Passenger's singing and songwriting talent is apparent in each song of *All the Little Lights*, creating enticing melodies that make you want to wrap yourself in the warm blanket of his lovely voice.



"Goodbye my friend,
(I know you're gone, you said you're gone,
But I can still feel you're here)
It's not the end,
(Gotta keep it strong before the pain turns into fear)"
-SPICE GIRLS, "GOODBYE" (1998)

Like the fleeting era of '90s girl bands, another Gateway Arts & Culture editorship has come to an end. But just like those Spice Girls lyrics you can't forget, we'll be stuck in your head forever.

ARTS MEETINGS WEDNESDAYS AT 4PM IN 3-04 SUB

gatewayarts&culture

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/ARTS

COMIC BOOK CHARACTER STUDY



Iron Man

Pros: Brilliant industrialist and technocrat. Suit of powered armour enabling flight and advanced weaponry.

Cons: He reeeeeeally likes his booze.

gateway
comics

YOUR GATEWAY TO
FLYING UNDER THE INFLUENCE

online at THEGATEWAYONLINE.CA/COMICS

COMICS MEETINGS ARE MONDAYS AT 5 P.M. IN 3-04 SUB

Sports

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Andrew Jeffrey

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Volunteer

Sports meetings Thursdays at 4 p.m. in 3-04 SUB. C'mon by!

Football camp brings tough decisions for coach

FOOTBALL ROUNDUP**Andrew Jeffrey**

SPORTS EDITOR ■ @ANDREW_JEFFREY

As training camp comes to an end for the Golden Bears football squad, the team watched for who the U of A's starting quarterback will be this season.

Third-year players Curtis Dell and Ryan Schwartz were the two top contenders competing for the position. While head coach Jeff Stead wants to have a starter selected soon, he still believes he could count on either player to do the job.

"They both started the camp trying to win the job from day one, and I think they were a little tight trying to make all the right throws and be perfect all the time," Stead said.

"They've settled down, and the last few days have been phenomenal," He continued. "They've been throwing the ball well and commanded respect in the huddle in the locker room, and right now, honestly, if we had to play tomorrow, I'd close my eyes and point and either one could go out there and be our starter on day one."

The competition between Dell and Schwartz may have been the biggest story of the Bears' camp, but other players stood out and surprised Stead with a strong showing this past week.

Freshman receiver Adam Wilson impressed the Bears staff, as did first year cornerback Jevan Buchi, who is part of a defence that will be the U of A's strength this season.

"Our defence is our strength without a doubt. Our offence is young, but it's also dynamic," Stead said.

"The quicker they can come

together and gel — whether it's Curtis or Ryan behind center — the better we're going to be, because our defence is fast and physical and they're going to get a lot of steals this year."

Last season the Golden Bears were a younger, less experienced team that didn't win a single game in 2011. However, Stead believes the year of growth since the 2011 season has done the team a lot of good.

"Last year we were at a point where we hit our peak early in camp, and I'm not sure we necessarily got better at the rate I'd expect," Stead said. "This year, these guys have gotten better every day, and that's great because if we continue that throughout the season, they're going to take us as far as we can go."

As for last season, Stead has stated he's the only person on the team allowed to talk about it. With a number of promising recruits for the Bears and a more experienced team overall, Stead sees a playoff appearance as a realistic goal for the team this year, with the potential to host a playoff game in the CanWest conference.

"That's part of a growing process, and when you take over a program and you're trying to restart and rebuild it, it takes time. These guys aren't dumb — they understand the process," Stead said.

"The guys that made the team have been out there competing, trying to find a spot on this team where they fit in. We've been preaching getting better every day, and we've been preaching the fact that we have an opportunity to turn this around quicker than anticipated and they're excited about that."

The Golden Bears' season opens



DANIELLE JENSON

on the road against the University of Saskatchewan Huskies on Aug. 31, whose 5-3 record last season put them in second place in the Canada West conference.

"They have some experience in certain spots, but they're starting with a new quarterback," Stead said. "In the past we've come out of the gates fairly strong. We've had a good

training camp, and playing them in game one will be a test to see where we're at and where we need to improve on in areas for us that are our strengths."

Golden Bears hold open hockey tryouts to recruit U of A students

HOCKEY ROUNDUP**Andrew Jeffrey**

SPORTS EDITOR ■ @ANDREW_JEFFREY

Training camp is now underway for the University of Alberta Golden Bears hockey team, and with camp comes a final opportunity for U of A students to make the team this year.

As part of the Bears' training camp, open tryouts were offered to any U of A students who at least played a midget AAA level of hockey.

The players who applied after tryouts were selected are now joining recruited first year players and returning students entering their second, third, fourth or fifth year of school. Golden Bears hockey head coach Ian Herbers sees the importance of offering this opportunity to any eligible U of A students.

"We're the University of Alberta Golden Bears hockey program, and these student-athletes who are trying out are going to the university. I think it's important that camp is open to the university," Herbers said. "I think it's a great opportunity for these guys. They'll get a legitimate look and an opportunity to prove that they can play."

Training camp began on Sunday with fitness testing and an introductory meeting informing new players of the expectations placed upon

every Golden Bears athlete. On Aug. 27, the players begin on-ice training with teaching and evaluating skills all week, ending with a Green vs. Gold game on Saturday that will test the players in a variety of common game situations.

"We'll play five-on-five, five-on-four powerplay situations or four-on-four. We'll even see a little bit of three-on-three, because during the regular season, if we get into overtime and we do hit a three-on-three situation, I need to see what guys are able to do," Herbers said.

"I've watched a lot of video on guys who are returning skate and I just need to know all the players better, whether they're tryout guys or the returning players this week."

What the open tryouts will add to the Bears' training camp is the competition it creates. The new Bear hopefuls pushing for a spot on the roster could strengthen the team, according to Herbers, with the potential of a new recruit even knocking an established Golden Bear out of a roster spot.

"I hope they're coming in and challenging for a spot and pushing them. The better the challenge, the stronger our team is going to be," Herbers said. "I want these guys in here competing, battling and pushing the returning players, which will make them better as well, and give us the

best opportunity this season."

However, if any of the students trying out for the team make the cut, they'll have to get used to the regular difficulties that every student-athlete faces.

Their first challenge came on Aug. 26 with fitness training that showed whether players had stayed in top physical condition during the summer, but the other major challenge will be learning how to juggle their academics and athletic schedules throughout the year.

Training camp will also be a learning experience for the more seasoned players, skating for the first time under new head coach Ian Herbers.

They'll learn about his expectations for the team and the differences between him and last year's head coach, Stan Marple. With Herbers behind the bench now, players both new and old begin the season with a relatively clean slate.

"There will be some tweaks on how we do things system-wise and there will be adjustments with special teams," Herbers said.

"The guys will be determining where they are in their position in the lineup depending on how hard they've worked in the offseason and how hard they work during training camp and the month process of exhibition games."



DAN MCKECHNIE

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Pandas set for trip to Japan

Volleyball team travels to train and scrimmage with Japanese university teams

Andrew Jeffrey
SPORTS EDITOR • @ANDREW_JEFFREY

In preparation for the upcoming season, the University of Alberta Pandas volleyball team is making a trip to the land of the rising sun. In their third trip to Japan since Laurie Eisler took over as head coach of the team in 1991, the Pandas are training with and playing against various Japanese university teams from Aug. 23 to Sept. 3. They'll also be training with the Japanese professional Division 1 team, the Pioneer Red Wings.

The trip is part of an exchange program Eisler has been a part of since she coached the University of Saskatchewan Huskies, which sees teams from Canada visit Japan and vice versa.

"Each of the places that we visit will set the itinerary. I think of the two university teams we stay with, it'll be mostly training scrimmages without uniforms," Eisler explained.

"It's like a practice where we play volleyball for three hours, take a break and come back and do it again. Then when we go to Pioneer, they have scheduled an exhibition game. We're also going to try and train with the Japanese junior national team while we're there."

Playing Japanese teams will present a new challenge for the Pandas. Japan proved itself to be a top nation in indoor volleyball earlier this summer when their women's team won the bronze medal at the 2012 Summer Olympics. The Japanese players have been training from a younger age, giving them more training time than even Canadian university teams.

"It's like a training video watching them play — their skills are perfect. It's largely due to really good coaching at very young ages and massive amounts of repetition," Eisler said.

"Volleyball is a very technical game, and it takes a long time to get really good. They've had more time at training once they're out of high school than our athletes have had



YIFENG LIU

their entire career."

Because of this technical prowess, Eisler also sees her Japanese opponents can expand their tactical game and turn the U of A's one strength — size — against them, using their speed and skill repertoire.

Eisler also finds the trip to be a rewarding experience in the way it enriches the lives of the players who have never visited Japan before.

Besides playing volleyball, the team plans on spending time over their 10 days in Japan sightseeing and learning about Japanese culture firsthand. The experience is valued enough by Eisler that the team self-funds their trip and helps every

player afford the individual cost of the trip.

"Two thirds of the cost of the trip is self-funded by the athlete," Eisler said.

"They need to either find donors to help them, or it's an added expense for them and their families. We would never leave someone behind if they can't afford it — the team picks up the rest. It's hard because we already do a lot of fundraising and this is on top of that, but it's well worth the money."

The trip takes place just two weeks after the Pandas started training together in preparation for their first game of the season on Oct. 26.

Bear selected for junior national team

VOLLEYBALL PROFILE

Andrew Jeffrey
SPORTS EDITOR • @ANDREW_JEFFREY

Representing his country will be a dream come true for University of Alberta volleyball player Ryley Barnes, but realizing his dreams on the volleyball court is nothing new for this Golden Bears player.

The second-year U of A student was chosen by Volleyball Canada to play for the national junior team at the NORCECA (North American, Central American and Caribbean) U21 men's volleyball championships in Colorado Springs. Playing for Canada has been a goal of Barnes' since he first saw the national team together as a junior high student, and his initial volleyball dreams came from his current team as well.

"It was the first time that I watched a Bears volleyball game at the U of A. I just thought, 'Wow, that would be crazy to be like them, playing there,'" Barnes recalled.

"It was the culture of it all," he continued. "It was a big game, so we went and watched, and the crowd was massive. All these huge guys were so physical, hitting the ball so hard, and it was inspiring watching them. They had a good

defensive team that year, and it was really good volleyball to watch."

It was the first time that I watched a Bears volleyball game at the U of A ... It was the culture of it all. It was a big game, so we went and watched, and the crowd was massive. All these huge guys were so physical, hitting the ball so hard, and it was inspiring watching them.

RYLEY BARNES
SOPHOMORE GOLDEN BEARS VOLLEYBALL PLAYER

Fast forward eight years, and after working with his U of A coaches, Barnes made 11 starts in the 2011-12 season, recording 73 kills, 11 assists and six kills.

Despite his strong performance, Barnes felt a sense of disbelief at being chosen to represent his country, but he has confidence in the potential of this national junior team.

"We've been working hard for

the past month and a bit — we have high expectations," Barnes said. "I think we're really going to perform well, and we've been peaking for this tournament."

Barnes believes the Canadian team has come together well, practicing twice a day with each other since July 31. With the team already practicing in Colorado Springs, they've had the opportunity to scrimmage the American national team in preparation for the championship.

"They're kind of big on intimidation, but it hasn't really played a big role because we know what we can do and we know what they can do now, so I think we're pretty comfortable with where we're at," Barnes said.

"They chirp a little more at the net — they walk around with big personas, but I don't think it really gets to us. We're just kind of focusing on what we have to do."

The two top teams from this bi-annual event will qualify for the 2013 World Junior Championship. Recently, Canada won medals in the last three editions of the tournament, winning a silver medal at the last event in 2010, which they hosted.

This year's tournament will run from August 27 to Sept. 1.

The Olympics' most entertaining yet overlooked sports



Sports Staff
GROUP COMMENTARY

At the 2012 Olympic games, the most popular events were, as usual, the high-profile sports. But the most entertaining and impressive events came from the fringe sports of the summer games.

Andrew Jeffrey

There's one overlooked sport that captures the attention and imagination of anyone who watches it, combining the grace and power of other more glorified sports. Truly, the most entertaining sport to watch is none other than table tennis.

The sport is consistently ignored by the rest of the world at the professional level, except for once every four years when viewers find themselves on the edge of their seat during heated matches between top nations like China, Japan and South Korea. Table tennis is often looked down upon by the casual sports fan who remembers how easy they thought the game was when they were eight years old, playing in their parents' basement.

But, table tennis Olympians take the game to new heights. The speed and agility of the players is unmatched by any other sport at the Olympics. Viewers are stunned by the intensity and power behind each swing of the athletes' paddles, and shocked at how the players can rally for so long while standing so

far from the table.

Unfortunately, the torch has gone out on the summer games for another four years — and with it goes the world's patience for ping pong. But, the athletes wait, biding their time for when they'll inevitably return in 2016 to win over a world of doubters who wonder why they never learned how to play real tennis well in the first place.

Jonathan Faerber

Decked out in a combination of plastic, nylon, kevlar and metal and armed with flexible blades, modern fencers come across as kind of silly at first glance: a bit like a beekeeper battles storm trooper.

But don't be fooled by first appearances — although two awkwardly costumed people rushing at each other in an apparently futile attempt to "wound" their opponent looks ridiculous in real-time, replays show the devil in the details.

All the essential action — feints, thrusts, dodges, parries and hits — are packed into the mere milliseconds before play stops. The spectacle continues to be all the more confusing the more such exquisite maneuvers are analyzed and expounded, frame by frame. After all, the commentators — experts at attaching verbose significance to every glance and breath these athletes take — must know what they're on about.

Surely, even a few minutes of partaking in the never-ending discussion must convince any observer that this is the most noble, sophisticated, elegant and worthy of all Olympic events — a hidden gem of sorts, in fact, among

all sports. After nearly a millenia in the making, the spectacle harkens back to that fundamental, universal urge to triumph against adversaries in direct combat, thus appealing to the inner fighter in all of us. Of course, in modern day Olympics, of which fencing has always been a part, duels are safe and no longer to the death, as they often were.

But so what if it's not the real thing? With culture, dignity, rules us commoners can never understand and most importantly athletes wielding weapons against each other, there's nothing else that comes as close to capturing the competitive Olympic spirit and all-inclusive sportsmanship. It may look and sound strange, but fencing is a win-win, after all.

Ryan Stephens

Lost amongst the glamour and excitement of the fast and furious Summer Olympic events — the athletics, the cycling, the swimming — archery stands woefully neglected in the press, which is truly a shame. Its unique combination of supreme skill and serenity puts it quite at odds with most other events in the Olympic spotlight.

Archery has remained virtually unchanged for millennia, and as such, it stands as an enduring connection to our pre-industrialized ancestors. Those whose survival depended on craftsmanship, ingenuity and patience, long before gunpowder weapons made hunting a breeze.

With such a universal and storied past, archery maintains a firm presence within myth and folklore,

proving to be as much an art form as it is a competitive sport.

Archers are significant in many of the most well-recognized stories throughout history: the arrows of Artemis, goddess of the hunt, and Eros, god of love, provided direction for the people of Ancient Greece. And the heroism and altruism of Robin Hood has been a source of morality for children since the Middle Ages.

Modern fiction proves that archery hasn't faded as a symbol of fierce survival, as shown through characters such as *The Lord of the Rings'* Legolas or *The Hunger Games'* Katniss.

Statistics show archery garners huge ratings during the Olympics, though outside of those two weeks, it's largely dismissed back into the realm of fiction. Perhaps if tournaments were directed more towards field archery — located on rough outdoor terrain with varied targets — they would show the true art of bowmanship, and it would ignite the passion within those keen on mythology, fantasy or survival.

Tyler Hein

The Olympics are a glorious time. They allow me to sit on my couch, eat a Twinkie or nine and judge people much better than I in tests of ability that I could never even dream of doing competently. "Look at that awful form, Phelps. It's called the breaststroke, not the not-good-at-swimming stroke," I yell at the screen while I push the thoughts of my failed comedy career out of mind with another Twinkie.

But then it happened: I came across a sport so incredibly accessible I

couldn't properly judge the competitors without first judging myself — Olympic Speed Walking. "This can't be an event," I thought to myself. Its name doesn't try to give it even a tiny bit of legitimacy. This is the jumbo shrimp of sports; A lame oxymoron masquerading as an Olympic event.

I walk everywhere. Sometimes I walk faster than usual and find myself outpacing strangers on the sidewalk. I curse my 11th Twinkie for keeping me from being in London and enjoying the gorgeous Olympian lifestyle lived only by incredible athletes — and apparently speed walkers.

And so I sat quietly, watched and listened. I took the sport in, came to understand it and accepted who I was, realizing that speed walking — not unlike the majority of fringe Olympic sports — is riveting.

Speed walking — or Race Walking, as it's dubbed in the Olympics — consists of the 20 and 50 km races, both gruelling events that combine the endurance of a long distance race with the thrill of watching people walk quickly, with the added bonus of being hilarious to watch as the racers shimmy their shoulders and wiggle their hips to the finish line.

I can't deny that I stood up and shouted at my television set when I unmistakably saw gold medalist Elena Lashmanova of Russia raise both feet off the ground — basically the only thing against the rules in this rough and tumble sport — in her "sprint" to the finish line. There is no decency left in the noble sport of race walking when a competitor can lift two whole feet off the ground at once. This may as well be jogging. But obviously that would just be silly.

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THE ADVENTURES OF RORY TIGHE by Gateway Staff

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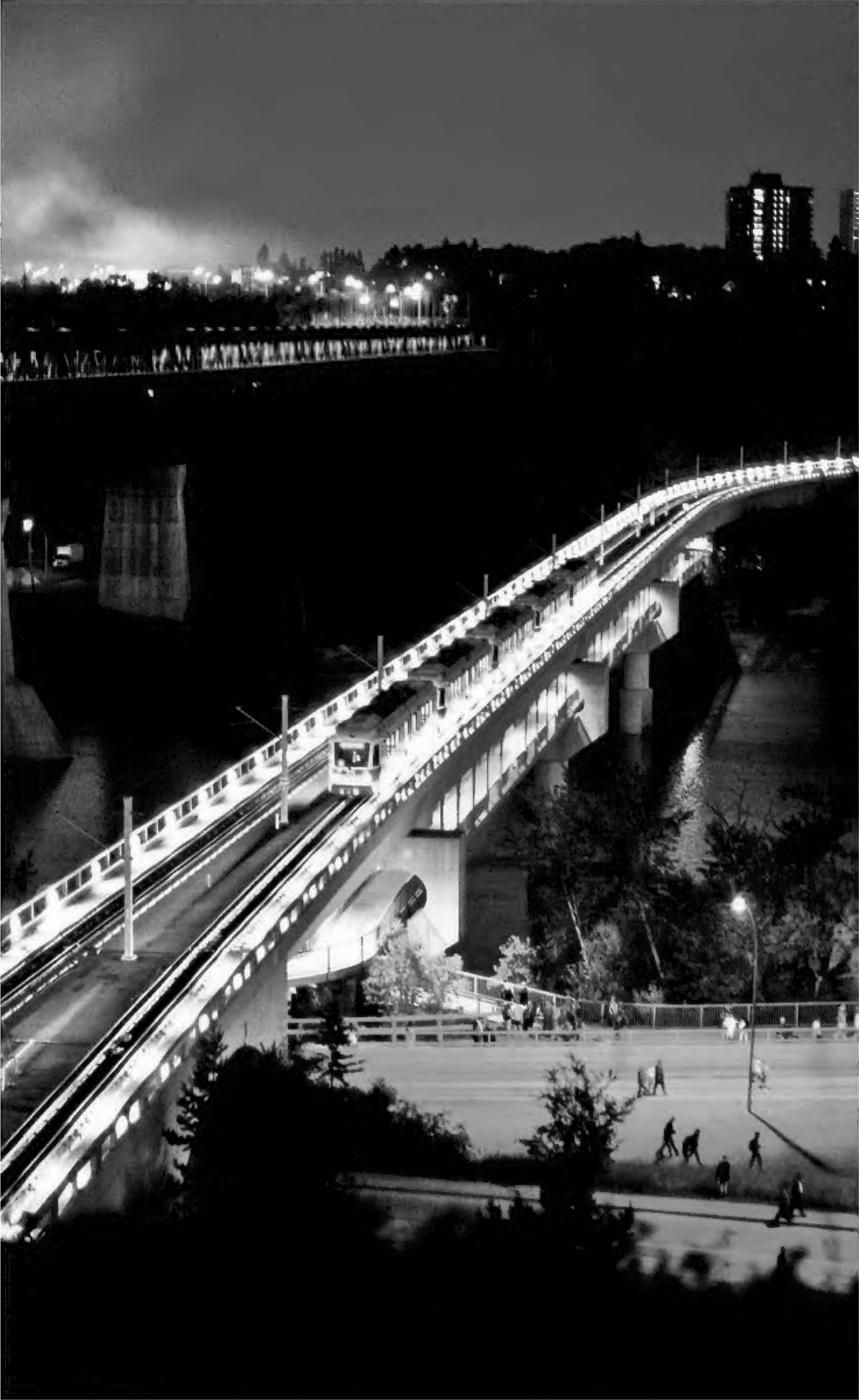


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PHOTOS OF THE SEMI-MONTH



THE LONG RIDE HOME The High Level Bridge after the Canada Day fireworks display. YIFENG LIU



CONVOCATION Spring graduates throw their caps in celebration in front of the Old Arts Building. YIFENG LIU